



# CURRENT ISSUES AND EVENTS

BRADLEY WILSON, PH.D. | CONTEST DIRECTOR  
2022-2023



FROM KALI GUINN, FLORIDA ELEMENTARY TEACHER

It is more important than ever for our students to learn to listen to various viewpoints, synthesize information, and form their own opinions. It's also important that they begin to see themselves as **actors of change** from a young age. Implementing current events in the classroom is a strategy that will keep students aware of real-world problems and situations.

JUNE 12, 2019

## AMERICA'S KNOWLEDGE GAP

Do immigrants who are here illegally have any **rights** under the U.S. Constitution?

Name the five **freedoms** guaranteed under the First Amendment.

Name the three **branches** of government.

Which amendment to the U.S. Constitution resulted in **freedom** for slaves?

Who is the **chief justice** of the U.S. Supreme Court?

**53%** of Americans think it is accurate to say that immigrants who are here illegally do not have any rights under the U.S. Constitution.

**37%** can't name any of the rights guaranteed under the First Amendment.

**74%** can't name all three branches of government.



## AMERICA'S KNOWLEDGE CRISIS

**26%** of respondents believe Brett Kavanaugh is the chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, and 14% of respondents selected Antonin Scalia, who died in 2016.

**18%** of respondents identified Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), elected to Congress in 2019, as the author of The New Deal, a suite of public programs enacted by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in the 1930s.

## AMERICA'S KNOWLEDGE CRISIS

**12%** of respondents understand the relationship between the Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th Amendment, and correctly answered that the 13th Amendment freed all the slaves in the United States.

## AMERICA'S KNOWLEDGE CRISIS

A large majority of teens age 13 to 17 in the U.S. (78%) say it's important to them to follow current events, and their news habits reflect the diversity of the modern media landscape.

Common Sense Media and Survey Monkey, 2019



## AMERICA'S KNOWLEDGE CRISIS

**More than half (54%) of teenagers** say they find news at least a few times a week from social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.

Common Sense Media and Survey Monkey, 2019

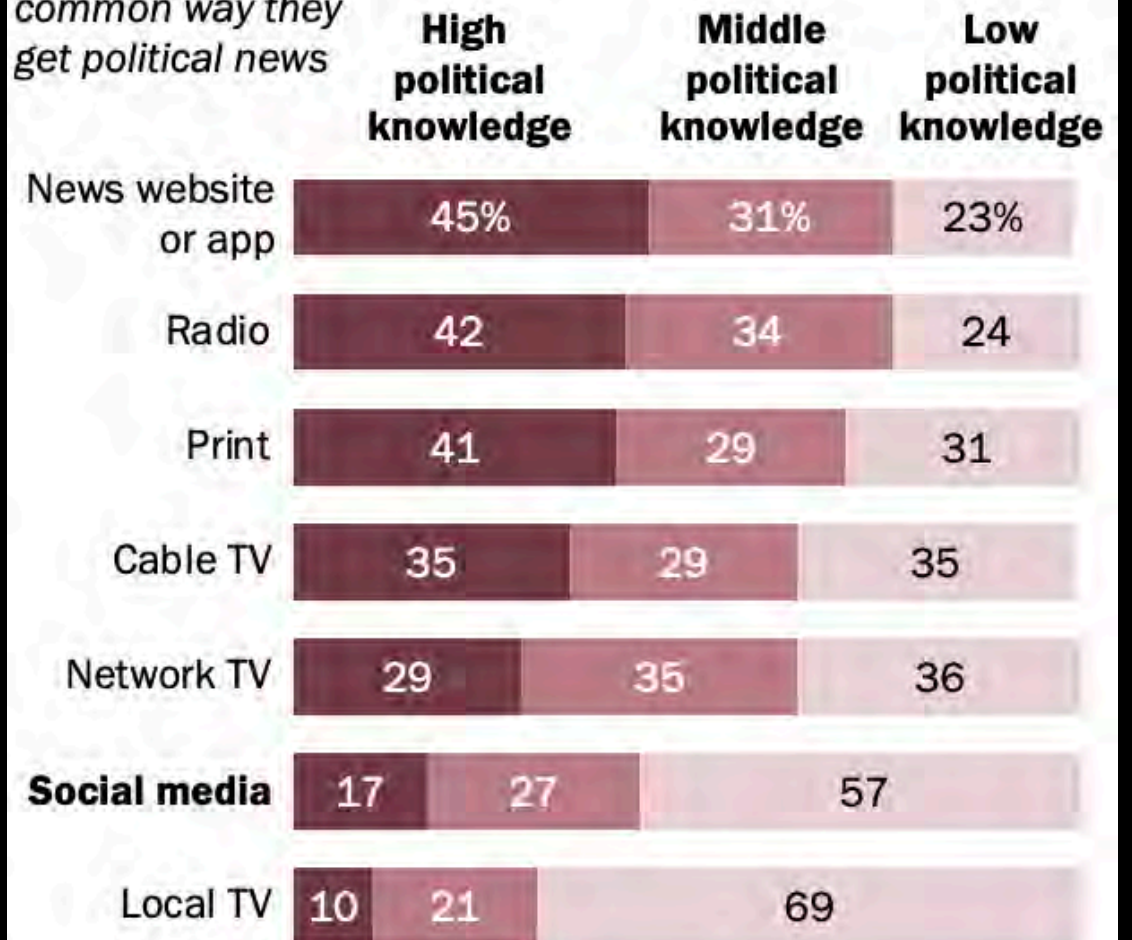
# AMERICA'S KNOWLEDGE CRISIS

Those who relied on social media for news were less likely than most others to be knowledgeable about current events.

## Americans who primarily get political news from social media are among least knowledgeable about politics

% of U.S. adults who have \_\_\_\_, according to an index of nine knowledge questions

Among those who say \_\_\_\_ is the most common way they get political news



Note: Knowledge index created from nine political knowledge questions. Respondents with high political knowledge are those who answered eight or nine questions correctly, middle knowledge are those who answered six or seven questions correctly and low knowledge are those who answered five or fewer questions correctly.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 2019. "How Americans Navigated the News in 2020: A Tumultuous Year in Review"



# Americans prefer Miley to Syria stories by huge number

Maria Puente, USA TODAY | Published 5:35 p.m. ET Sept. 9, 2013 | Updated 5:46 p.m. ET Sept. 9, 2013

Americans would rather read about the latest transgressions by Miley Cyrus than the latest horrors in Syria. Are we surprised?



(Photo: Kevin Mazur WireImage for MTV)

CONNECT TWEET LINKEDIN COMMENT EMAIL MORE

You probably already sensed that media coverage of Miley Cyrus' shenanigans would be more popular with Americans than stories about mass murder in Syria and the possible U.S. intervention there.

But someone has actually calculated exactly how much more popular Miley is than Syria: 12 times more popular. It's another one of those signs that suggests...well, something about the state of our culture.

A new survey by [Outbrain](#), a leading "content discovery platform" on the Web, tracked traffic data from its network of 100,000 publishers and major news organizations and found that Americans viewed 12 times as many pages about Miley-the-twerker as they did about Syria-the-damned. *New York* magazine's popular fashion blog, [The Cut](#), summed it up.

The disparity is in spite of the fact that hundreds of Syrians, including more than 400 kids, were recently gassed to death, apparently by their own government, and despite the fact that more than twice as many news stories about Syria have been published for every one about Miley in recent days.

## STORY FROM HOONUIT

Customer Spotlight: Riverland Community College

See more →

An advertisement for USAA, a financial services company. The background is dark blue. The USAA logo is at the top left. The text reads: "IS YOUR HOME BASE FOR FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYING". Below this is a yellow button with the text "Learn More". At the bottom right is a logo for "THE HOME LENDER" featuring a house icon.

Share your feedback to help improve our site experience!



FROM TRAVIS RINK, MIMIO EDUCATOR

More than ever, an appreciation for news and our civic institutions is a key step toward self-empowerment and advancement.

FROM TRAVIS RINK, MIMIO EDUCATOR

As educators, it's our job to make sure that students are armed with the tools necessary to distinguish between fact, fiction, and plain old opinion; between research or evidence-based statements and empty rhetoric; between exaggeration and reputable journalism – not just “factoids” from Facebook, Twitter, or other information feeds.



## Tweet



NPR   
@NPR



"We know that if you study civics in high school you are more likely to be an informed voter," researcher says



Can Teaching Civics Save Democracy?

Tweet your reply





# ASSESSMENT



**Jovenel Moïse was assassinated on July 7, 2020 at 1 a.m. EDT at his residence. His assassination and a major earthquake have left his country in turmoil. What country?**

- a. Ecuador
- b. Romania
- c. Haiti
- d. Philippines

# ASSESSMENT

**U.S. President Joe Biden made Juneteenth a federal holiday. It is an observation of the day in 1865 when enslaved people in what city learned that they had been freed two years earlier?**

- a. Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
- b. Sharpsburg, Maryland
- c. Palmito Ranch, Texas
- d. Galveston, Texas

# ASSESSMENT

**On the Nov. 2, 2021, Texas state ballot, there were eight Constitutional amendments. Which of the following is NOT one of them?**

- a. Rodeo raffles
- b. A ban on religious service restrictions
- c. State judge eligibility
- d. Voting rights



# ASSESSMENT

**An experimental antiviral pill to treat COVID-19 cut by 89% the chance of hospitalization or death for adults at risk of severe. What company produces this pill, Paxlovid, expected to get approval for use in the U.S. by the end of the year.**

- a. Merck & Co
- b. Johnson & Johnson
- c. Pfizer
- d. Moderna

# ABOUT THE CONTEST



- 40 objective questions
- Essay (10 points)
- 60 minutes
- Top score individual (objective plus essay)
- Top score team (objective only; top three individuals constitute team score)

# WHO MAY ENTER?



- School may enter four students at district.
- Three individuals advance from district to regional to state.
- Four members of winning team advance.

# ELEMENTS OF NEWS

- **Timeliness** — when?
- **Conflict** — political, ideological, cultural
- **Consequence** — what? why is it important?
- **Prominence** — who?
- **Proximity** — where? how?
- **Oddity** — unusual events that make the news
- **Human Interest** — newsmakers in a more human role



# WHO QUESTION

**Although the move didn't fit the state's flag protocol, Florida's governor in February ordered flags in the state flown at half-staff for who, a person the governor called "an absolute legend" and "a great person"?**

- a. Eugene Goodman
- b. Larry Flynt
- c. Chuck Corea
- d. Rush Limbaugh

# WHO QUESTION



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# WHO QUESTION

**Who became the face of the coronavirus and one of the leaders of the White House team on the U.S. response to it?**

- a. Jared Kushner
- b. Anthony Fauci
- c. Jerome Adams
- d. Tedros Adhanom

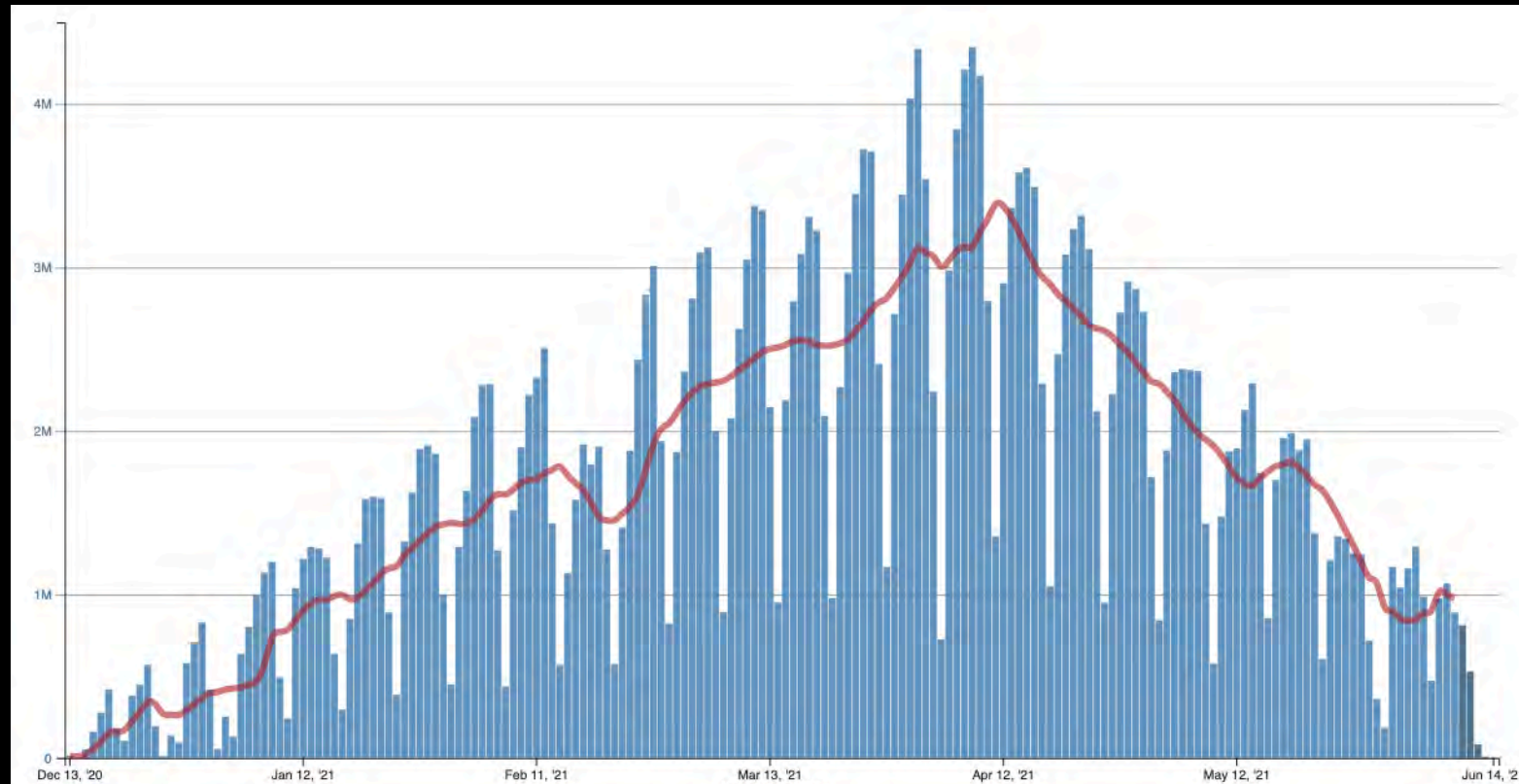
# WHO QUESTION

**Who became the face of the coronavirus and one of the leaders of the White House team on the U.S. response to it?**

- a. Jared Kushner (Trump's son-in-law)
- b. **Anthony Fauci** (director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases)
- c. Jerome Adams (U.S. surgeon general)
- d. Tedros Adhanom (WHO director general)



# CHART QUESTION



**Using data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, what does the chart above represent?**

- a. the number of people in the United States who have died of COVID-19 per day
- b. the number of people in the world who have died of COVID-19 per day
- c. the number of people in the U.S. hospitalized with COVID-19 per day
- d. the number of COVID-19 vaccines administered in the U.S. per day



# WHAT QUESTION

**According to scientists, there's a 99.9999 percent chance that what is the cause of climate change?**

- a. the natural cycle of the planet
- b. cows
- c. humans
- d. expansion of the sun

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# WHICH QUESTION

**As authorized by D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser which slogan was printed on the street in front of the White House in June?**

- a. AllAloneTogether
- b. Make America Great Again
- c. MeToo
- d. Black Lives Matter

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# WHICH QUESTION



**Which of the following was NOT one of the items Texas Gov. Greg Abbott mentioned as an emergency priority in his State of the State address?**

- a. expanding broadband access
- b. punishing local governments that “defund the police”
- c. ensuring election integrity
- d. COVID-19 relief — \$1,400 checks to Texas taxpayers

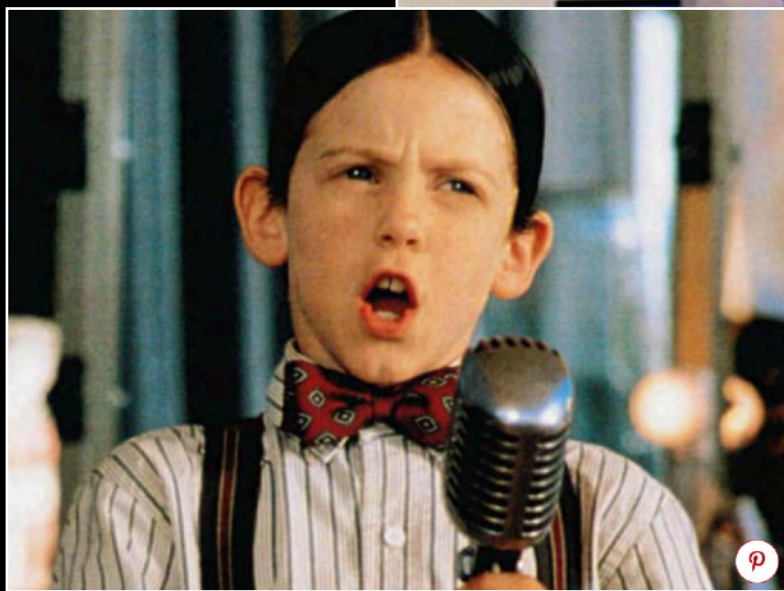
# NO CELEBRITY QUESTIONS

**Which *The Little Rascals* actor was arrested in Weatherford, Texas, in June 2020 after allegedly huffing an air duster. He was released on a \$1,500 bond the following day?**

- a. Whoopi Goldberg
- b. Billie 'Buckwheat' Thomas
- c. George 'Spanky' McFarland
- d. Bug 'Alfalfa' Hall



# NO CELEBRITY QUESTIONS



Alfalfa

**Who cares?**

But, for the record,  
it was Bug Hall, not  
Spanky, Darla,  
Buckwheat or Porky.

# NO CELEBRITY QUESTIONS



Alfalfa

**WHO CARES?**  
Remember criteria  
for news

Timeliness

Conflict

Consequence

Prominence

Proximity

Oddity

Human Interest

# BUSINESS QUESTIONS

**A new energy-friendly fleet of delivery vehicles and shorter office hours were just part of a massive 10-year plan Louis DeJoy had to make so that which business would be more competitive and more modern?**

- a. the United State Postal Service (USPS)
- b. United Parcel Service (UPS)
- c. Amazon Home Delivery
- d. AT&T home service



# BUSINESS QUESTIONS



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# BUSINESS QUESTIONS

Even before it opened in China, Disney's new movie "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" was breaking records.

- Fastest film to gross \$1 billion – 12 days.
- Biggest worldwide opening weekend and single weekend gross – \$529 million.
- Biggest worldwide December opening weekend – \$529 million.

However, the movie, which opened Dec. 18, 2015, was not without controversy. Discuss some of the issues surrounding the production and release of the box office sensation.



# NO IMPOSSIBLE STUFF



**Who was U.S. President Donald Trump's personal secretary before she was fired after making comments about Ivanka Trump?**

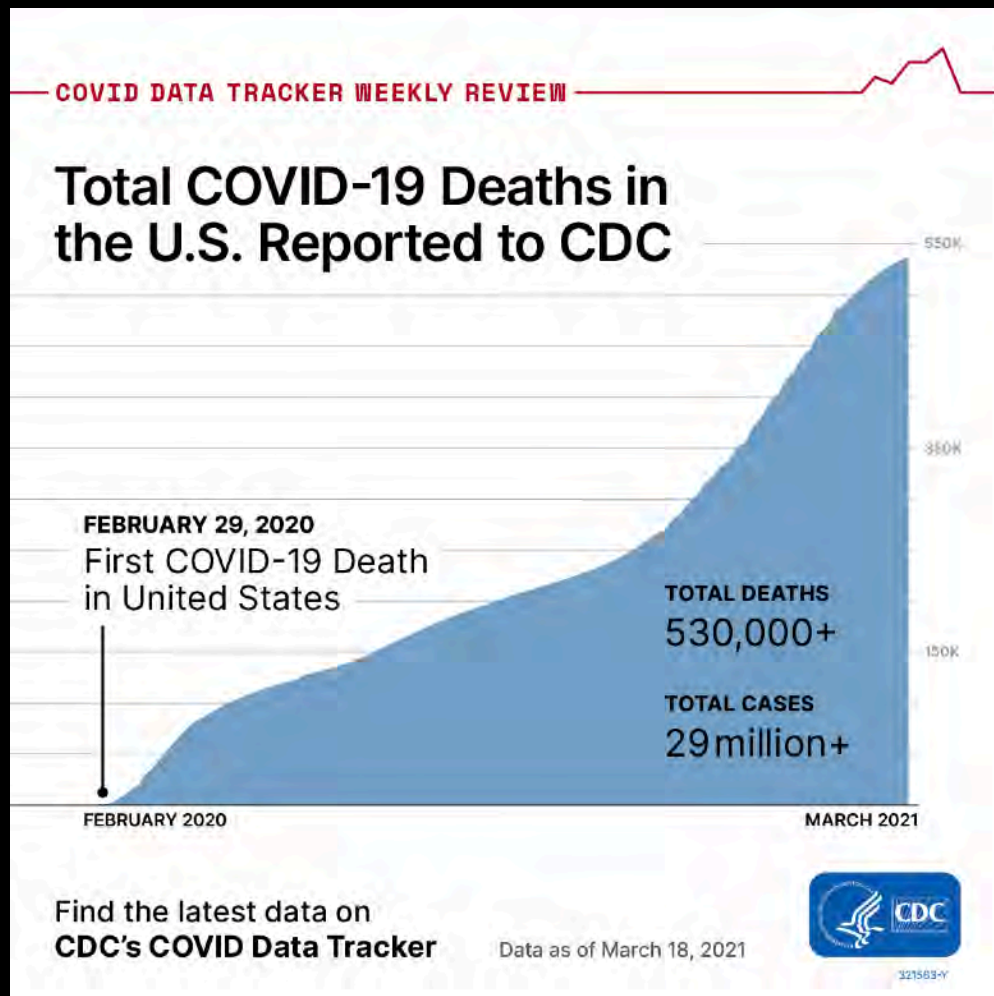
- a. John Kelly
- b. Madeleine Weterhout
- c. Mick Mulvaney
- d. Sarah Sanders

# NUMBERS

**President Joe Biden delivered the first prime-time address of his term on March 11. In the 24-minute speech, he pulled out a note on his schedule with the total deaths in the U.S. from COVID-19. How many?**

- a. 23,399,584
- b. 2,647,251
- c. 527,726
- d. 36,919,777

# NUMBERS



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# NUMBER QUESTIONS

The midterm elections gave Democrats a majority of the total voting seats in the House of Representatives when the new Congress convened Jan. 3. How many votes do the Democrats now have in the House?

- a. 196
- b. 235**
- c. 278
- d. 239

The Labor Department released its monthly hiring and unemployment figures in December, providing one of the better snapshots of the American economy. What was the unemployment rate at the end of the year?

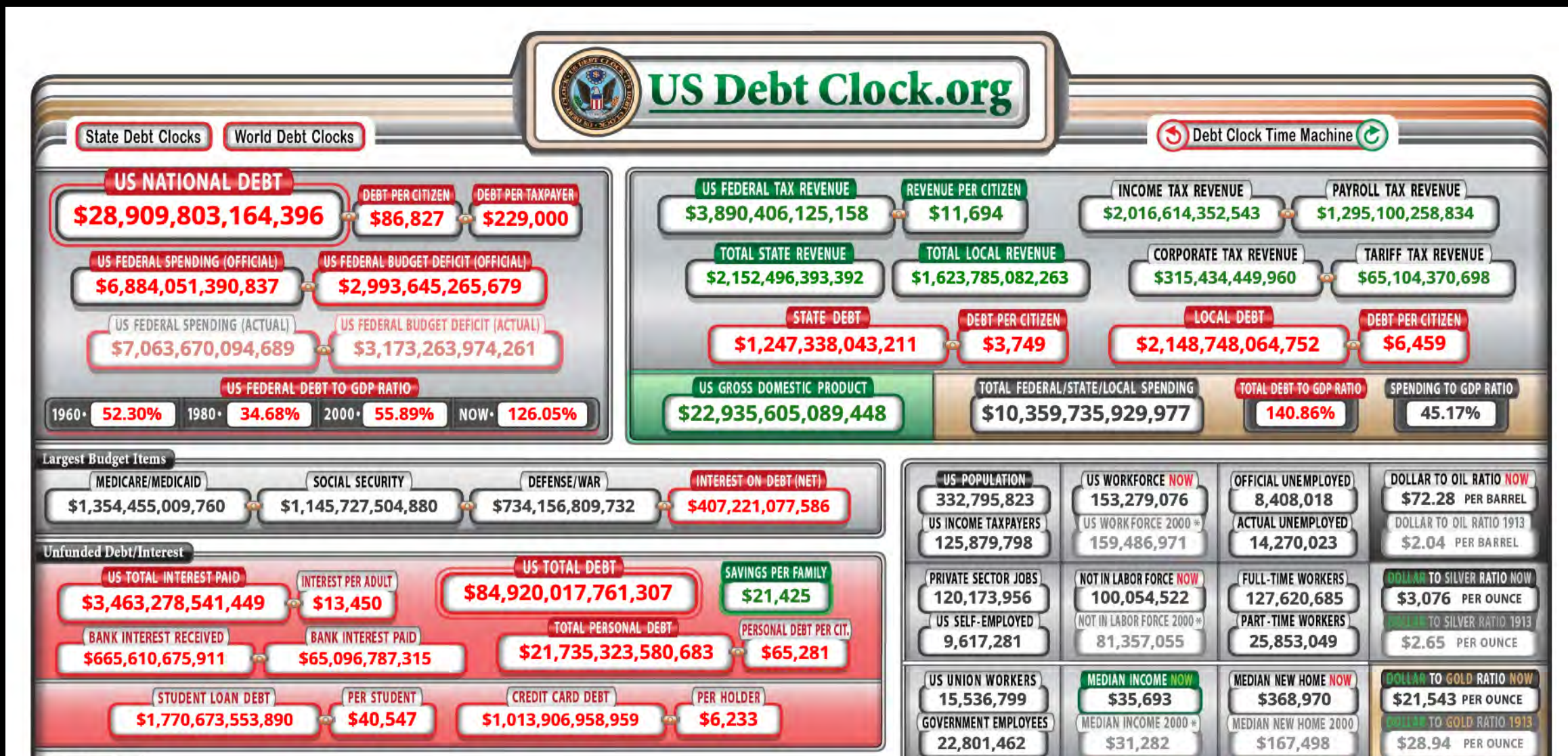
- a. 10.1%
- b. 7.8%
- c. 4.7%
- d. 3.7%**



# NUMBER QUESTIONS

The U.S. government's public debt is the highest it has ever been. Given that the U.S. population is about 330 million, how much debt is there for each person?

- a. about \$67,000
- b. about \$6,700
- c. about \$67 million
- d. about \$6.70





# TRIVIA VS. NEWS

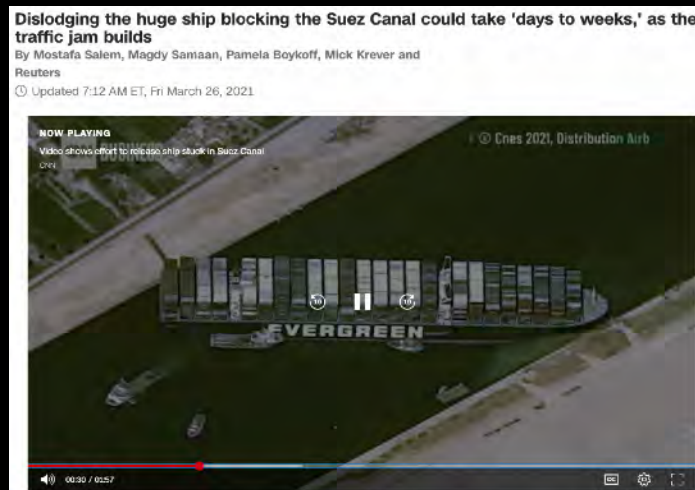


# NOTHING TOO EASY

**Hindering delivery of basic supplies to bakeries, hospitals, communication centers and other vital institutions nearby as well as worldwide oil supplies, a giant cargo ship, Ever Given, blocked what critical waterway in March?**

- a. the Panama Canal
- b. Houston Ship Channel
- c. the Suez Canal
- d. Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal

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.06% GOT IT WRONG (ONE PERSON)  
STATE 2021

# NO SPORTS GAME QUESTIONS

**Who won the Super Bowl in 2020, one of the last sporting events played before the country was shut down due to a pandemic?**

- a. Denver Broncos
- b. Philadelphia Eagles
- c. New England Patriots
- d. Kansas City Chiefs



# HOWEVER, I MIGHT ASK...

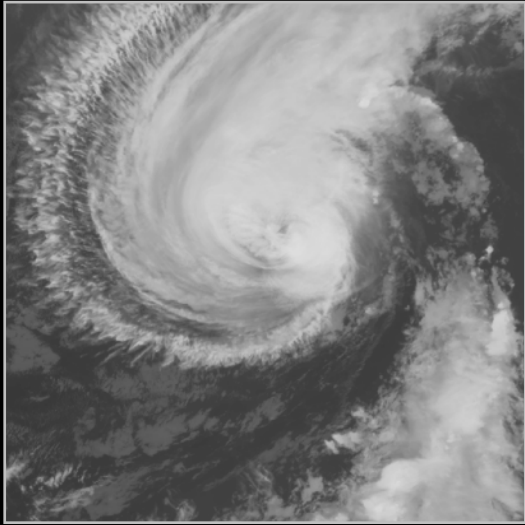


**Justify won \$800,000 in the Belmont Stakes, after winning \$1.24 million in the Kentucky Derby and \$900,000 in the Preakness. Justify was only the 13th horse in history to capture what elite title?**

- a. Super Bowl
- b. **Triple Crown**
- c. Cricket World Cup
- d. Formula One Racing



# ENVIRONMENT



**The 18th named storm of the 2021 Atlantic hurricane season, Sam, made landfall where?**

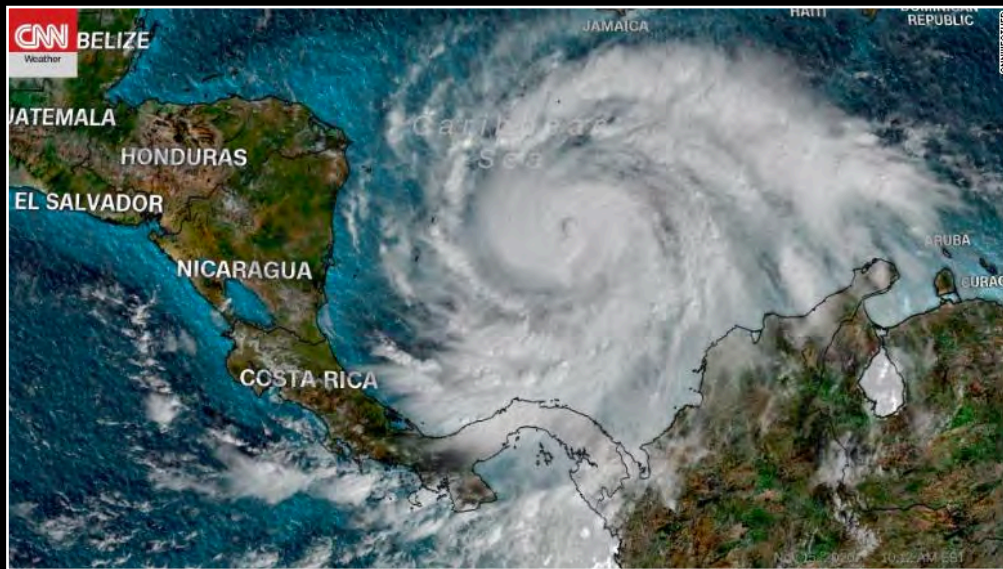
- a. Florida
- b. Louisiana
- c. New York
- d. No where

# ENVIRONMENT

**In 2005, there were 27 named storms and one unnamed storm. In 2020, there were 30 named storms, a new record. The last named storm, a Category 5 storm, was?**

- a. Vicky
- b. Zeke
- c. Iota
- d. Lambda

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# ENVIRONMENT

**The oil spill appeared to be the largest since the Deepwater Horizon explosion in 2010. About 672,000 gallons leaked in two days when a pipeline fractured. Where?**

- a. off the coast of Kuwait in the Persian Gulf
- b. near Amherst, South Dakota
- c. in the Gulf of Mexico, southeast of Venice, Louisiana
- d. off the coast of Trinidad and Tobago in the Atlantic Ocean

# SOME PROBLEM QUESTIONS

# POLITICS

## **Why did the Democratic National Committee suspend Sen. Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign's access to the DNC voter database?**

- a. Campaign workers took advantage of a software error to access Hillary Clinton's confidential voter information.
- b. Campaign workers broke into Hillary Clinton's headquarters to install listening devices.
- c. Campaign workers embedded themselves on Donald Trump's staff to get inside knowledge.
- d. Campaign workers hacked into it to get confidential data on other candidates.



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ANSWER KEY SAID D WAS CORRECT.  
REGION 2016

# POLITICS

**Why did the Democratic National Committee suspend Sen. Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign's access to the DNC voter database?**

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/12/18/politics/bernie-sanders-campaign-dnc-suspension/>

D is wrong. A is correct. The information wasn't on other candidates anyway. It was on voters.

We sent out a correction the day of Region. "On the CURRENT ISSUES answer key for the Region test, it has been brought to our attention and confirmed that the answer key for #14 is incorrect. #14--A is the correct answer, not D."

# CIVIL RIGHTS

**In a red state known for limiting civil rights protections for LGBT people and regulating who uses which public bathrooms, which candidate for North Carolina governor claimed victory on election night although the election was too close to call even a week after the election?**

- a. Republican Roy Cooper
- b. Democrat Pat McCrory
- c. Libertarian Lon Cecil
- d. Republican Robert Brawley

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Roy Cooper is the 75th governor of North Carolina since 2017. A member of the **Democratic Party**, he served as the 49th attorney general of North Carolina from 2001 to 2016.



CONTESTANT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

# CURRENT ISSUES & EVENTS

## CONTESTANT ANSWER SHEET

DO NOT write your name or school on this paper. Clearly write the LETTER corresponding to the **best response** to each question in the space below. Each objective question is worth 1 point. Write your response to the essay on the paper provided. The essay is worth as much as 10 points. You have 60 minutes.

ANSWER SHEET

LETTER corresponding to the **best response** to each question in the response to the essay on the paper provided. The essay is worth as

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| 10. _____ | 28. _____ |
| 11. _____ | 29. _____ |
| 12. _____ | 30. _____ |
| 13. _____ | 31. _____ |
| 14. _____ | 32. _____ |
| 15. _____ | 33. _____ |
| 16. _____ | 34. _____ |
| 17. _____ | 35. _____ |
| 18. _____ | 36. _____ |
| 19. _____ | 37. _____ |
| 20. _____ | 38. _____ |
|           | 39. _____ |
|           | 40. _____ |

# CORRECT RESPONSE

**"As required by the Constitution, who presided over the second impeachment trial of former U.S. President Donald Trump?"**

- a. the chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, John Roberts
- b. the vice president, Kamala Harris
- c. a senator, Patrick Leahy, D-Vermont, the president pro tempore of the Senate**
- d. the speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, D-California

We have a question regarding #37 on the Current Events test.

Choice C is the correct answer on the key.

However, according to the Constitution, the chief justice is supposed to preside over it, which is choice A.

Do we accept both A and C?

# CORRECT RESPONSE



**"Facing multiple crises including twin hurricanes, earthquakes, the island's debt crisis, corruption scandals and the pandemic, Pedro Pierluisi was sworn in as governor of what country Jan. 2?"**

- a. Guam
- b. American Samoa
- c. U.S. Virgin Islands
- d. Puerto Rico

# CORRECT RESPONSE



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- d. **Puerto Rico**

# CORRECT RESPONSE

#30- The question asks about the governor of what country, and all of the answer choices are not countries, but territories.

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- c. U.S. Virgin Islands
- d. **Puerto Rico**



POLITICS

# Puerto Rico Swears In A Governor Who Inherits Multiple Crises

January 2, 2021 · 2:34 PM ET

ADRIAN FLORIDO



Pedro Pierluisi takes office as governor amid the island's ongoing efforts to claw it back from natural disasters.

Eric Rojas/AFP via Getty Images

Pedro Pierluisi was sworn in as Puerto Rico's 12th elected governor, promising to turn the page on years of social and political turmoil in the territory and to restore trust in a government whose credibility was damaged by its response to a string of recent crises.

Speaking from the steps of the island's Capitol, the new governor addressed a crowd of a few hundred invited guests who wore face coverings and were spaced out as a precaution against the coronavirus.

Pierluisi, 61, was previously the island's attorney general and a U.S. Congress delegate. His swearing-in on Saturday follows his previous attempts to claim the governorship, first in 2016, when he was defeated by the incumbent.

Go to CIA.gov

## Puerto Rico

Central America

Page last updated: March 05, 2021



### Photos of Puerto Rico

VIEW 15 PHOTOS

	<b>Country Flag</b>
	<a href="#">View Details</a>

	<b>Country Map</b>
	<a href="#">View Larger</a>

	<b>Download Country Documents</b>
	<a href="#">One Page Summary</a>
	<a href="#">Travel Facts</a>

	<b>Locator Map</b>
	<a href="#">View Larger</a>

- Contents
- Introduction**
- Geography

## Introduction

### Background

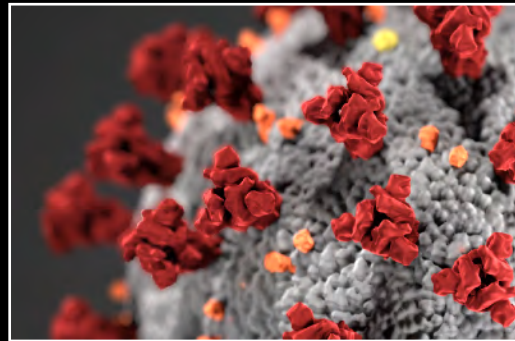
# FEEDBACK

What disturbed me most in CI&E is that there was a lot of parody among the competitor's scores before the essay was judged. This overweights the importance of the essay at state. I would suggest that the way to make the test less subjective at region and state is to make it harder. The way to fix the problem is to add more questions at regional and even more at state. Say, an increase of five or even better 10 at each level should do it.

JONATHAN ROBERTSON  
SUDAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

# ANY RATIOS?

**Business • International • National • Science • Texas**



No. I play it by ear depending on news flow. In an election year, you can expect a lot of national news. And, you might expect to see questions regarding Texas implications to a national story or event.

# ANY RATIOS?

**Business • International • National • Science • Texas**

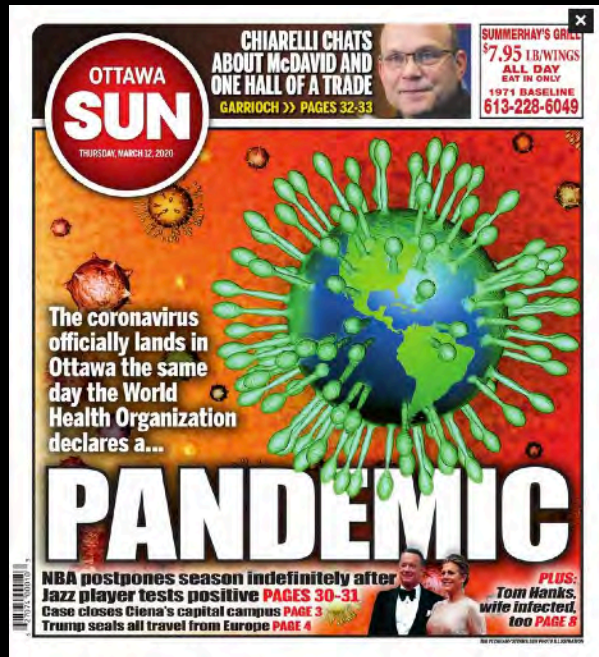
	# Questions	% Wrong
T=Texas	5	27%
N=National	21	29%
I=International	9	40%
B=Business	2	45%
S=Science	3	50%
	40	

# IMPORTANT TOPICS

Affirmative Action	Drug legalization	Middle East relations	Solar power
Affordable Care Act	Early voting	Minimum wage	Standardized testing
Alt-right	Eating disorders	Misinformation	Stem cells
Alternative medicine	Education policy	Net neutrality	Stimulus packages
America's global influence	Equal Rights Amendment	Nuclear energy	Supreme Court confirmation
Antifa	Executive orders	Offshore drilling	Sweatshops
Artificial intelligence	Extremism	Oil supply	Syrian civil war
Assisted suicide	Factory farming	Organic food	Texas budget
Atheism	Foreign aid	Outsourcing	Title IX
Bilingual education	Fracking	Pandemic	Trade deficit
Biofuels	Freedom of speech	Paying college athletes	Trade tariffs
Black Lives Matter	General Data Protection Regulation	Police reform	Transgender rights
Border security	Genetic engineering	Political activism	Urban agriculture
Capital punishment	Gerrymandering	Prescription drug addiction	Vaccines
Censorship	Green New Deal	Racial profiling	Vaping
Charter schools	Hacking	Ransomware	Violence in the media
Childhood obesity	Hate speech	Reparations	Voter fraud
Civil rights	Health insurance	Russian hacking	Voting laws
Climate change	Human trafficking	Sanctuary city	War
Coronavirus	Immigration	Screen addiction	White nationalism
Critical race theory	International violence	Self-driving cars	Wildfires
Cryptocurrency	Israel Palestine relations	Sex education	Wind power
Cyber bullying	Labor unions	Smart speakers	Women's rights
Cybersecurity	Me Too movement	Social security	Zero tolerance policies
DACA		Socialism	



# THE ESSAY



**SPORTS SUNDAY**  
HOUSTON CHRONICLE • MAY 31, 2020 • SECTION C • \*\*



**Imagine.**

If we had embraced Colin Kaepernick's peaceful protest and paid attention to the issue he was trying to address.

**Imagine.**

We could be working toward change instead of witnessing the chaos, anger and violence in our streets.

**Imagine.**

Because this was exactly what Kaepernick was protesting. Not the anthem. Not the flag. Not the military. But unchecked police brutality against people of color like George Floyd in our country.



COMMENTARY BY ANN KILLION AND MIKE FINGER ON PAGE C3

The essay matters.

# THE ESSAY

The U.S. economy, the world's third-largest economy, is strong. The Gross Domestic Product is growing at about 2.6 percent per year. Unemployment was only 3.8 percent in February. Inflation is only 2.2 percent. While the national debt is about \$22 trillion, 113 percent of GDP, most economists say that is only unhealthy for short periods.

Not all other countries have economies that are that healthy.

Pick three other countries – not the United States – and **discuss** economic problems they have been having so far this academic year and the sociopolitical situations surrounding them.

# THE ESSAY

As Robert Glazer said in an April 1, 2020 *Forbes* article, "With little warning, COVID-19 is changing everything about our lives – changes that are universal across generation. Although each generation will be affected differently, all will be forced to acclimate to a new normal."

And a Pew Research poll released March 30, 2020 showed that nearly 44% of U.S. adults say their life has changed in a major way.

COVID-19 has changed our way of life. First, **discuss** how the novel coronavirus has changed the way we work, play and learn. Second, include some of the major individuals and companies involved in this new, but temporary, normal. Finally, what steps do officials say will be required to get us back to work, play and school?



# THE ESSAY

In setting foreign policy, the guiding principle is to serve the national interest. Whether it's political, economic, military or cultural, America's interest has to be considered when presidents make decisions regarding foreign policy. Ronald Reagan was seen as anti-Communist and his policies reflected that. "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall," he challenged the general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in West Berlin in 1987. George H.W. Bush dealt with Iraq. And Dwight Eisenhower effectively ended the Korean War and kept China out of Taiwan. But not all presidents are evaluated so positively when it comes to foreign policy.

If the report card on the Biden administration's foreign policy were set in stone after his first year (or so), what grade would Biden get?

Pick three issues or events related to foreign policy during Biden's term in office and support the grade by **evaluating** those issues or events on political, social, cultural and/or economic grounds.

# THE ESSAY

## **Michelle Yañez, Tivy High School**

In my nine years of coaching this event, I have never seen an essay that invites editorializing. It created confusion for students who tested. Students asked for clarification. While I graded essays I had one student title their essay: "We are asked never to editorialize..." I guess I am seeking clarification. This in way not change my kids standings and points but as professionals working together, my fellow current events coaches and I were befuddled.

## **Richard McGowan, McKinney High School**

The CIE essay prompt (District 2022) was terrible. The rubric even editorialized.



# THE ESSAY

## **THE RUBRIC**

**An 8-10 ESSAY** – It interprets the facts without editorializing.

**A 2-4 ESSAY** – Instead, it tends to editorialize.

## **EXAM DIRECTIONS**

Avoid including your personal opinions, as more than enough information on the subject has been published.

# THE ESSAY

## **VERBS**

~~To evaluate~~

To discuss

To examine

To review

To compare / to contrast

To explore

To survey

To dig into

To canvass

To analyze

To have a look

To look into

# FROM THE CONSTITUTION

## REPRESENTATION.

(1) **Individual Competition.** Each participant high school may enter as many as four individuals in the district meet, all of whom may place. In districts with more than eight schools, district executive committees may elect to limit entries to three.

(2) **Team Competition.** The individuals entered at district constitute the team. A team shall have a minimum of three contestants compete in order to participate in the team competition.

The **team score** is determined by adding the highest three individual scores in the objective portion of the contest. All four members of the winning team will advance to the next higher level of competition.

# ABOUT INDIVIDUAL SCORING



- Objective + essay score.
- Only top eight objective scorers advance to essay round.

# ABOUT INDIVIDUAL SCORING OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS

- Britney — 32
- Lindsay — 30
- Tara — 28
- Juan — 27
- Jayden — 26
- Sophia — 26
- Nicole — 25
- Hilary — 24
- Noah — 23
- Jacob — 22
- Mary-Kate — 21

All other contestants  
answered fewer than 21  
correctly.

Top eight advance to the essay round.



# ABOUT INDIVIDUAL SCORING

## ADD THE ESSAY QUESTIONS

NAME	OBJECTIVE	ESSAY	TOTAL
BRITNEY	32	5	37
LINDSEY	30	7	37
TARA	28	9	37
JUAN	28	10	38
JAYDEN	26	8	34
SOPHIA	26	5	31
NICOLE	25	3	28
HILARY	24	9	33

# ABOUT INDIVIDUAL SCORING

## FINAL PLACES

NAME	OBJECTIVE	ESSAY	TOTAL	PLACE
BRITNEY	32	5	37	4th
LINDSEY	30	7	37	3rd
TARA	28	9	37	2nd
JUAN	28	10	38	1st
JAYDEN	26	8	34	5th
SOPHIA	26	5	31	
NICOLE	25	3	28	
HILARY	24	9	33	6th

# ABOUT INDIVIDUAL SCORING

## FINAL PLACES

NAME	OBJECTIVE	ESSAY	TOTAL	PLACE
BRITNEY	32	5	37	4th
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JAYDEN	26	8	34	5th
SOPHIA	26	5	31	
NICOLE	25	3	28	
HILARY	24	9	33	6th

# ABOUT TEAM SCORING

- Top three-member team determined **by objective scores only**.
- For example, TEAM A:
  - Kevin — 29
  - Brad — 26
  - Jake — 25
  - Matt — 21 (lowest score doesn't count)
  - Team score: 80

# WHAT ABOUT THE WILD CARD?

- Best **second place** team among the eight districts in a region goes to region.
- Best **second place** team among the four regions in the state qualifies to the State Meet.



# 8 DISTRICTS PER REGION 4 REGIONS IN THE STATE

- District 1 — 78
- District 2 — 72
- District 3 — 69
- District 4 — 83
- District 5 — 66
- District 6 — 81
- District 7 — 70
- District 8 — 68
- Region 1 — 81
- Region 2 — 77
- Region 3 — 72
- Region 4 — 83

# WHAT IF THERE'S A TIE? FOURTH TEAM MEMBER'S SCORE WILL BREAK TIE.

- District 1 — 78
- District 2 — 72
- District 3 — 69
- District 4 — 83
- District 5 — 66
- District 6 — 83
- District 7 — 70
- District 8 — 68

## District 4 (83)

Jennifer - 30  
Courtney - 27  
David - 26  
Matthew - 25

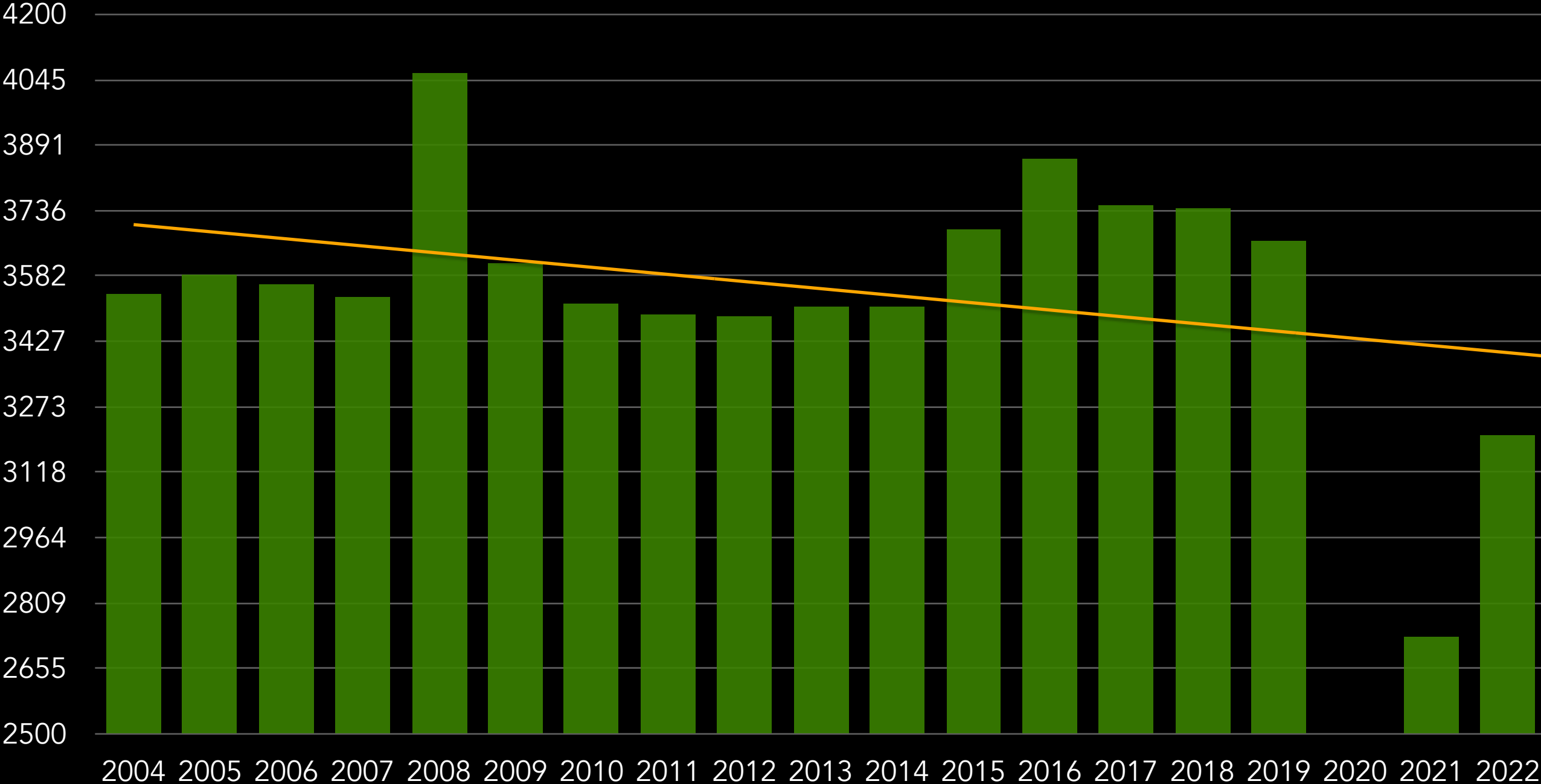
## District 6 (83)

Tony - 32  
Carmela - 28  
Meadow - 23  
A.J. - 19

# BUT WHAT IF...

- Can a member of a team who did not place first, second or third at district but who advanced with the team then places first, second or third as an individual at region advance as an individual?
- Yes.

# THE NUMBERS: DISTRICT



# THE NUMBERS: REGION & STATE

## Region participation in 2021 — ?

(2019 — 1,043)

(2018 — 1,072)

(2016 — 1,080)

(2015 — 1,088)

## State participation in 2021 — 145

Odds of making it to State — ?

(2019 — 157)

(2018 — 161)

(2017 — 155)

(2016 — 165)

# THE NUMBERS: STATE 2021

**Overall average | 27.89 (High 42.8)**

(2019: 27.41) (2018: 29.43) (2017: 28.72) (2016: 27.6) (2015: 32.3)

1A — 22.6 (High 35.3)

2A — 26.1 (High 37.5)

3A — 27.9 (High 42.3)

4A — 28.9 (High 41.3)

5A — 31.4 (High 40.8)

6A — 29.9 (High 42.8)



# THE NUMBERS: STATE 2021

Objective score average | 25.4

(2019: 25.2) (2018: 27.5) (2017: 31.3) (2016: 27.6) (2015: 32.3)

High | 35

Low | 10

Essay score average | 5.9

(2019: 5.7) (2018: 6.3) (2017: 5.2) (2016: 4.7) (2015: 5.6)

High | 8.8 (n=1)

Low | 1.0 (n=1)

# THE NUMBERS: STATE 2021

	<b>1A</b>	<b>2A</b>	<b>3A</b>	<b>4A</b>	<b>5A</b>	<b>6A</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>Contestants</b>	24	22	23	24	26	26	24.2
<b>High Overall</b>	35.3	37.5	42.3	41.3	40.8	42.8	40
<b>High Objective</b>	29	31	34	33	33	35	32.5
<b>Low Objective</b>	10	15	17	15	20	11	14.7
<b>High Essay</b>	6.3	8.5	8.3	8.3	8.8	8.5	8.1
<b>Low Essay</b>	1	4.7	4	3.3	2.7	5.3	3.5

# MOST MISSED QUESTIONS

**25. The polar vortex brings the season's coldest days to the central states. What is the polar vortex?**

- a. a part of the jet stream moving cold winds from the polar regions to North America
- b. winds, including the Santa Ana winds, that bring moisture off the Pacific Ocean forming massive snowfalls and ice over the areas east of the Rocky Mountains
- c. a high pressure system that forms over the North Pole and blocks warm winds from the tropics from reaching North America
- d. a gigantic, circular, upper-air weather pattern in the Arctic that envelops the North Pole

MISSED BY 82% OF STUDENTS  
STATE 2021

# MOST MISSED QUESTIONS

**25. The polar vortex brings the season's coldest days to the central states. What is the polar vortex?**

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MISSED BY 82% OF STUDENTS  
STATE 2021

# HARDEST QUESTIONS

**39. Adidas is exploring shoes that aren't made from animal leather. What is the base material for these new shoes?**

- a. Fungi
- b. Ferns
- c. Cannabis
- d. Seaweed

# HARDEST QUESTIONS

**39. Adidas is exploring shoes that aren't made from animal leather. What is the base material for these new shoes?**

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Apr 22, 2021, 09:26am EDT | 4,415 views

## How Adidas Is Using Mushrooms To Create A Line Of Stan Smith Mylo Sneakers

 **Tim Newcomb** Contributor   
[SportsMoney](#)  
*I cover stadiums, sneakers and tennis*

[Follow](#)

 **Listen to this article now**  
05:15  Powered by [Trinity Audio](#)





# HARDEST QUESTIONS

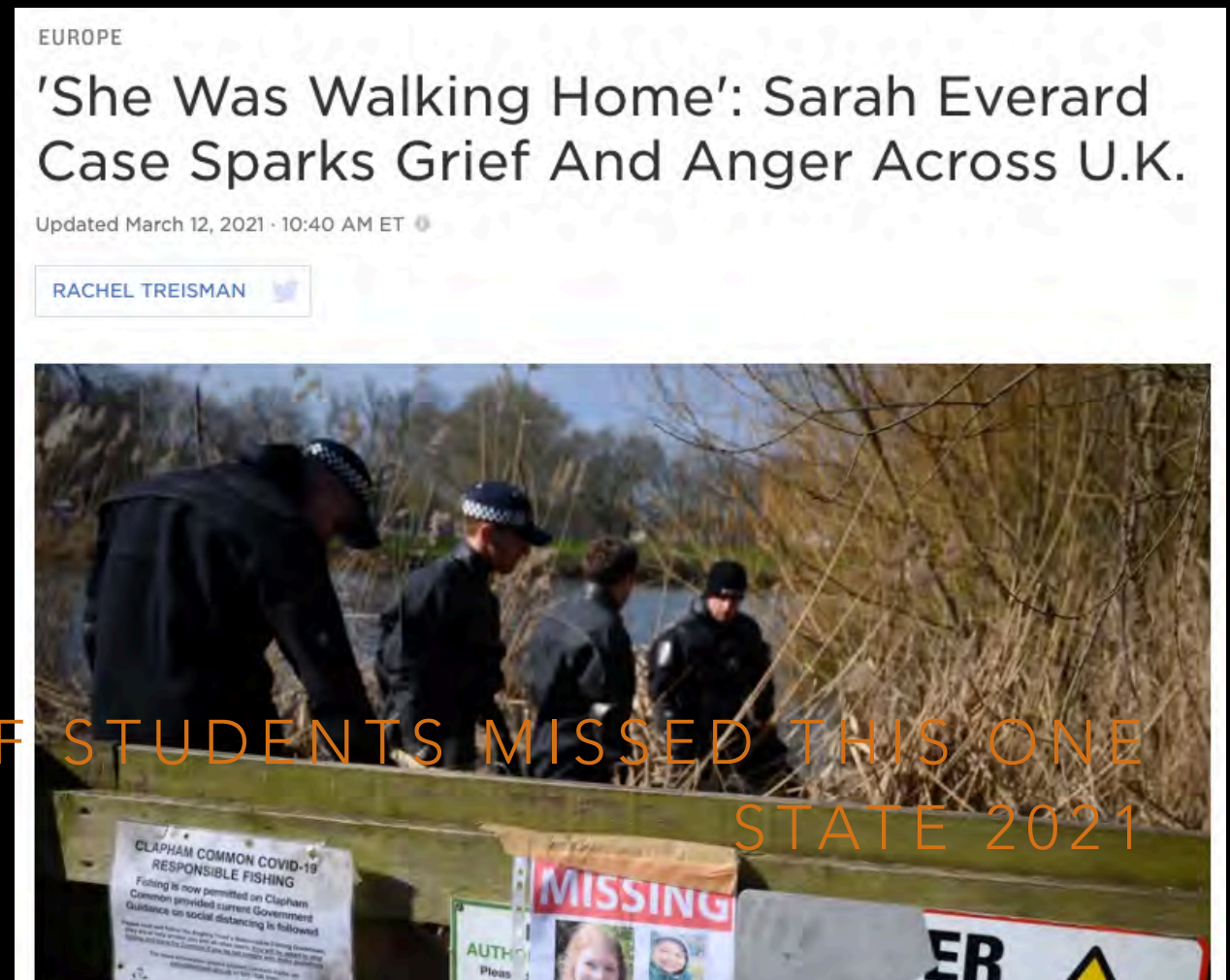
**21. Sarah Everard disappeared as she walked home in London on March 3 and was found dead a week later. Police told women to stay inside for their own safety. What social movement was set off?**

- a. Take Back the Night
- b. Denim Day
- c. Reclaim These Streets
- d. Walk a Mile in Her Shoes

# HARDEST QUESTIONS

**21. Sarah Everard disappeared as she walked home in London on March 3 and was found dead a week later. Police told women to stay inside for their own safety. What social movement was set off?**

- a. Take Back the Night
- b. Denim Day
- c. Reclaim These Streets
- d. Walk a Mile in Her Shoes



74% OF STUDENTS MISSED THIS ONE STATE 2021

# PRACTICE


The NewsCurrents News Quiz x K! Kahoot! x K! Play Kahoot! - Enter game x +

kahoot.it/challenge/?quiz-id=d86051d6-5f71-48ed-b747-19368e099995&single-player=true

Apps Research DJNF TPA Papers... Household Journalism Google LinkedIn Pinterest SlideShare ISSUU Hootsuite Twitter Gmail Facebook Reading List

## When Democratic legislators walked out Sunday night, it was clear that SB7 wouldn't pass. What was it about?

19



▲ elections and voter access

◆ expanding gun rights

● restricting abortion

■ bail reform



# Weekly News Quiz for Students: Covid Decline, Viral Video, Giant Iceberg

Compiled by John Otis and Jeremy Engle May 25, 2021



This is our final Weekly News Quiz for Students for the 2020-21 school year. Look for our Summer News Quiz in August.



Hosam Salem for The New York Times

Above is an image related to one of the news stories we followed this past week. Do you know what it shows? At the bottom of this quiz, you'll find the answer.

Have you been paying attention to the news recently? See how many of these 10 questions you can get right.

1 of 10



Stefani Reynolds for The New York Times

A sharply divided House voted on May 19 to create an independent commission to investigate the \_\_\_\_\_, overcoming opposition from Republicans determined to stop it.

Capitol assault on Jan. 6.

A sharply divided House voted on May 19 to create an independent commission to investigate the \_\_\_\_\_, overcoming opposition from Republicans determined to stop it.

Capitol assault on Jan. 6.

foreign interference in elections

impact of human activity on climate change

racial disparities in the economy

2 of 10



Hosam Salem for The New York Times

On May 20, after more than \_\_\_\_\_ days of fighting that has taken more than 200 lives and inspired protests and diplomatic efforts around the world, Israel and Hamas agreed to a cease-fire, officials on both sides said.

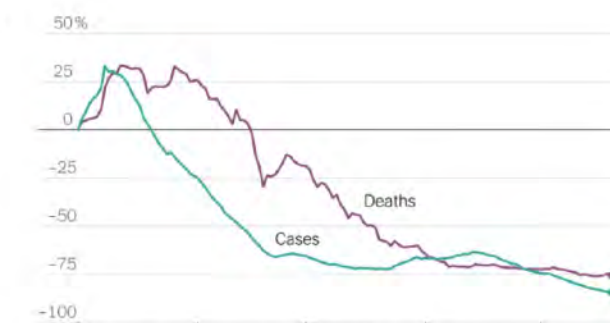
three

10

25

100

3 of 10



By The New York Times | Sources: State and local health agencies and hospitals

Last week, the United States reported the lowest number of new Covid-19 cases since \_\_\_\_\_.

summer 2020

November 2020

January 2021

# PRACTICE

## SLATE QUIZ

June 22, 2021

Question 2 of 12

Who presented the Bush administration's case for war in an address to the United Nations Security Council?

Condoleezza Rice

Dick Cheney

George Tenet

Colin Powell

Answer quickly to earn more points!



46 coins

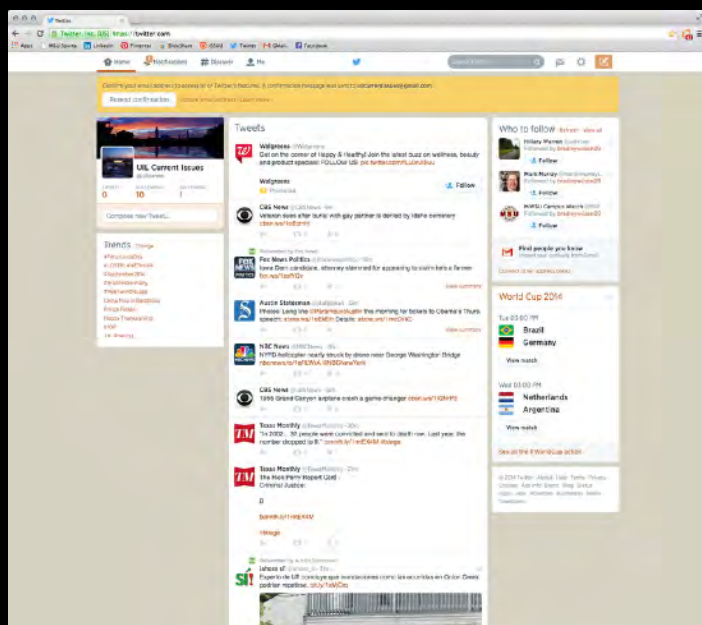
Quiz Template by Chris Kirk and Andrew Morgan. Report a bug.



# FOLLOW CI&E



Texas UIL Current  
Issues and Events



@uilciande  
#uilciande





Hereford 2021 Special Olympics

Hereford 2021 Special Olympics

Hereford 2021 Special Olympics

Hereford 2021 Special Olympics

Hereford 2021 Special Olympics

Hereford 2021 Special Olympics

Hereford 2021 Special Olympics

Hereford 2021 Special Olympics

Hereford 2021 Special Olympics

UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE  
STATE CHAMPION  
SOCIAL STUDIES TEAM  
CONFERENCE AAAA  
2021

UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE  
STATE CHAMPION  
CURRENT ISSUES AND EVENTS  
CONFERENCE AAAA  
2021

GEE!!  
I WISH I WERE  
A MAN  
JOIN  
THE NAVY







**UIL Current Issues**  
@uilciande

Congratulations to Alex Yount of Dripping Springs High School. The only person to score a perfect 40 in the CI&E Take-Home competition. Congratulations.

[@OneTigerNation](#) [@dsisd](#) [uiltexas.org/files/academic...](http://uiltexas.org/files/academic...)



### Academics At-Home Experience

---

**Shared Scores - CURRENT ISSUES AND EVENTS**

Conf	School	Student Name	Score
5A	Bryan Adams High School	Carmen Hernandez	31
5A	Bryan Adams High School	Melanie Peraza	31
5A	Bryan Adams High School	Jordan Young	25
5A	Clint ISD Early College Academy	Brittany Rodriguez	29
5A	Clint ISD Early College Academy	Andrea Sanchez	33
5A	Clint ISD Early College Academy	Jose Vega	15
5A	Dripping Springs High School	Melissa Richardson	23
5A	Dripping Springs High School	Alex Yount	40
5A	Ennis High School	Mason Gibb	29
5A	Ennis High School	Samantha Webster	21
5A	Infinity Early College High School	Sergio Martinez-Ortiz	27
5A	Infinity Early College High School	Vinay Pillai	27
5A	Infinity Early College High School	Adrianna Toledo	25

12:21 PM · May 21, 2020 · [Twitter Web App](#)

1 Retweet 15 Likes





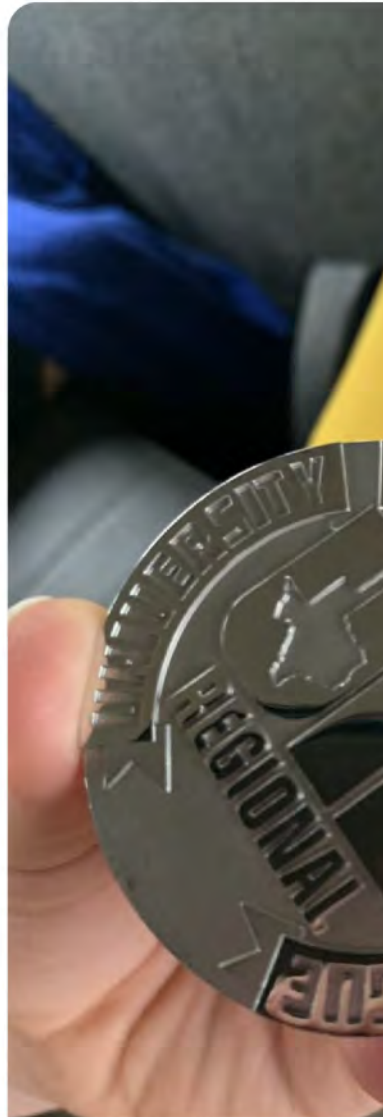


kade  
@KadeMims

Replying to @uilciande



7:15 ↗



< Tweet



Christopher lee c  
@Christo750287C

Replying to @uilciande

Decatur High School there! EFND!



Tweet your reply



9:43 PM · 4/13/19 · Twitter

2 Likes



Amy Hodge  
@amyhodge77

Follow

11 years - 12 events - 5 schools - 3 ISDs - too many invitationals, tournaments, medals, trophies & ribbons to count - the most amazing coaches in the state to help him along the way! Today Andrew's UIL Academics journey came to an end. I'm so proud of all he's accomplished!



4:42 PM - 13 Apr 2019

1 Retweet 21 Likes



You, emily, Andrew and 2 others

2

1

21



Tweet your reply

4:10 ↗



Nicolás Macr  
@RealNicoFo

We just won 1st place UIL Current Issue state we go!!! 😊  
#UIL @uilciande



2:34 PM · 4/13/19 · Twitter

1 Retweet 3 Likes













TRADITION  
MOULTON HIGH SCHOOL  
ACADEMICS

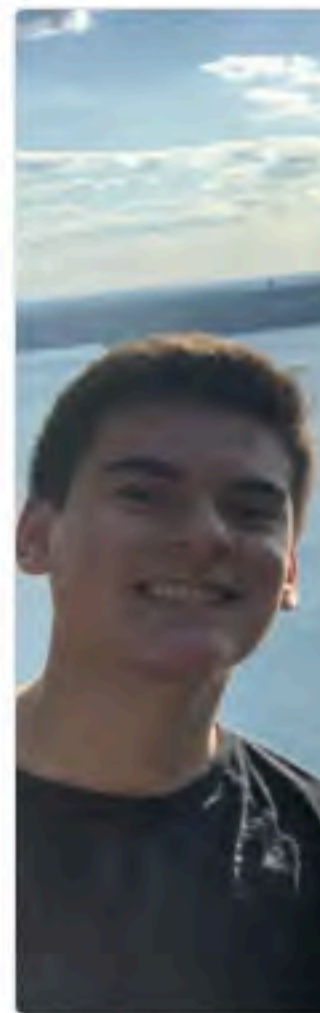
COMSTOCK  
PANTHERS





Love, Cf  
@MrAweSo

Annual tea  
Austin. Ha  
@uilciande



6:17 PM - 5 May 2018

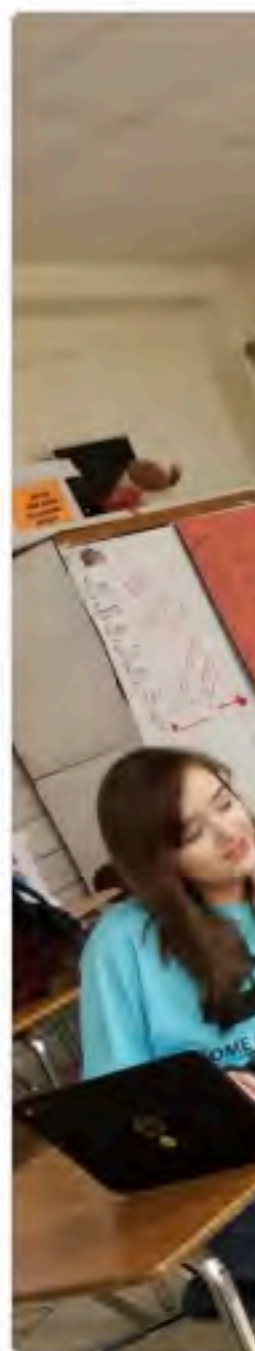
1 Retweet 12 Likes

Safin Rouf and Adarr

1 Retweet 1 Like

Stubblefield\_SHS  
@stubblefieldELA

Q: How to start a fight i  
A: mix up teams and as  
@quizlet to prepare for  
year!



2:59 PM - 15 Ma

1 Retweet 1 Like

Enrique the  
@EnriqueM2000

2005: A numl  
Gerrard helps

2018: I, as nu  
complete hist  
and achieving

13 years apa  
the greats #G



10:53 PM - 25 May 2018

UIL Current I  
@uilciande

Just some of  
met yesterday  
some who ha  
win again this  
work.



5:17 AM - 5 May 2018

10 Retweets 41 Likes

10 Retweets 10 Likes

Jeremy Dickerson  
@Jdickerson27

Follow

Current Issues and Events

2nd place team in Texas 4A

Thanks for the years of coaching @Skizalmc!

Also I got a great selfie with  
@bradleywilson09!

@cantonhs @CantonUIL @uilciande



6:39 PM - 4 May 2018 from Austin, TX

10 Retweets 43 Likes

grant tullos, Cameron and Canton HS Counseling

10 Retweets 43 Likes



Roy Rodriguez @MrRod4Edu · 11h  
@uiltxas 2015 5A Current Issues Champion  
Consolidated HS with @uilciande #uilstate2015



The  
@uil

RETV  
1

10:3

RETWEETS  
5

★ Nancy J  
14h: Wh  
& coach  
pic.twitter



Joshua Burcham on Twitter

Twitter, Inc. [US] https://twitter.com/Birdistheword41/status/60321657164163...

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Joshua Burcham @Birdistheword41 Follow

@bradleywilson09 is the coolest Current events director ever! #currentevents

RETWEETS 4 FAVORITES 7

10:10 AM - 26 May 2015

Reply to @Birdistheword41 @bradleywilson09

Trends

FIFA #Origin #QueensSpeech Priyanka Gandhi #HumpDay #5WordWeddingToast  
Memorial Day Willie Walsh #houwx San Miguel

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Jack-J  
@Malone

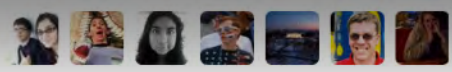
@bradley

RETWEETS  
3



RETWEETS 3 FAVORITES 7

10:10 AM - 26 May 2015





# SPORTSMANSHIP



**Chad Smith**  
@MrAwesome109



Follow

Not only are we champions but we also just set a record for score! @uilciande State champs! Obed -3rd Sam-4th



**Spencer Johns**  
@Wolfe\_Johns

Follow

Victory belongs to the most persevering.  
- Napoleon Bonaparte

4 years to State.  
Sophomore - 4th Individual  
Junior - 1st Team  
Senior - 2nd Individual



8:14 PM - 4 May 2018

9 Retweets 60 Likes



Sprint

5:44 PM



Tweet



**Rodrigo Estrada**  
@RodrigoEstJr

#UIL Academics Regional Meet domination! UIL Current Events Team 🏆 UIL Science 🧪 Top Score 🏆 UIL Social Studies 📖 Champ 🏆 & Team 🥈

#StateBound 🎉 @UILTexas



Tweet your reply



# SPORTSMANSHIP

 **Rachael Cummings**  
@rcummings513 Follow

Tioga's Current Issues and Events won the 1A Texas State Championship! @uilciande



LIKE

1



9:07 PM - 21 Apr 2017

 **Amy Hodge**  
@amyhodge77 Follow

Way to go, Andrew! You worked hard for this 1st place! On to Region! #UILTexas @a\_Plebeian01 @uilciande



LIKES

4





# NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS AND THEIR ASSOCIATED WEBSITES AND SOCIAL MEDIA



- USA Today
- Wall Street Journal
- The New York Times
- The Washington Post



# TEXAS METROPOLITAN NEWSPAPERS



- Dallas Morning News
- Houston Chronicle
- San Antonio Express-News
- Fort Worth Star-Telegram
- Austin American-Statesman



# NEWS MAGAZINES



- The Week
- Time
- Newsweek
- Texas Monthly
- US News & World Report
- The Economist

# RADIO, TELEVISION, INTERNET



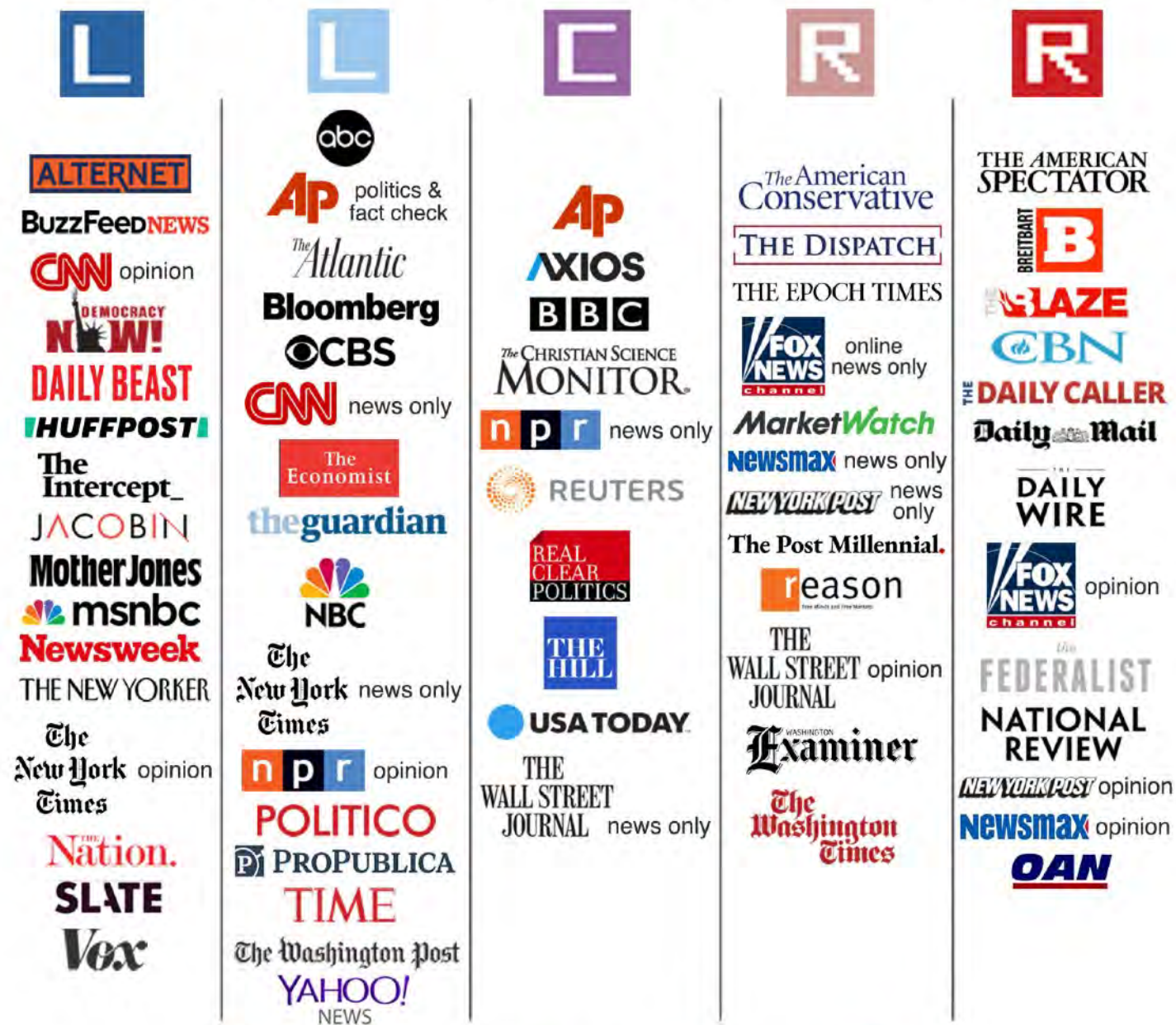
- Texas Tribune
- National Public Radio
- PBS
- ABC, CBS, NBC
- CNN.com, MSNBC.com, foxnews.com



# SOURCES

## AllSides™ Media Bias Chart

All ratings are based on online content only — not TV, print, or radio content.  
Ratings do not reflect accuracy or credibility; they reflect perspective only.



L LEFT L LEAN LEFT C CENTER R LEAN RIGHT R RIGHT

AllSides Media Bias Ratings are based on multi-partisan, scientific analysis.  
Visit AllSides.com to view hundreds of media bias ratings.

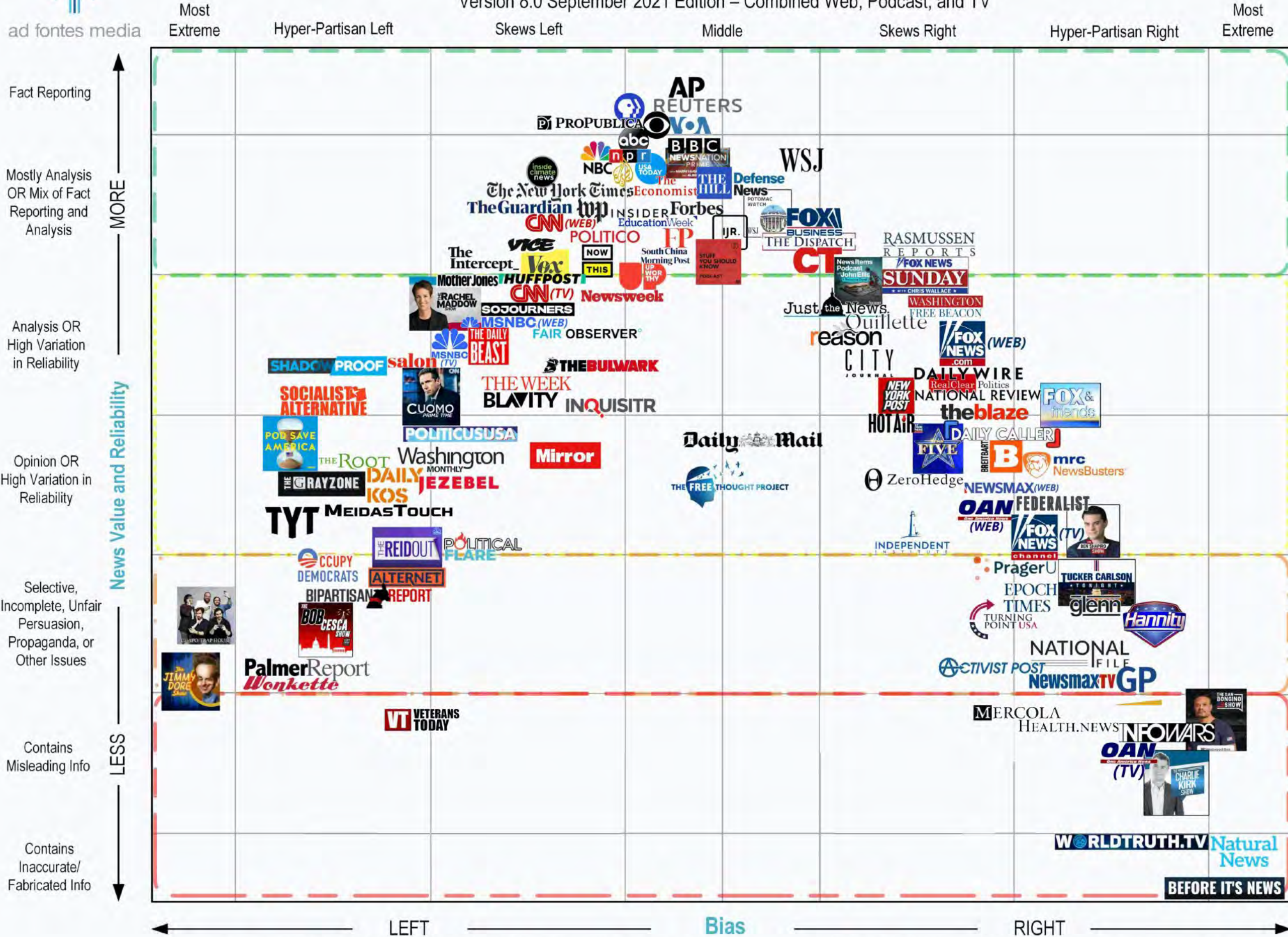
Version 3 | AllSides 2020





# The Media Bias Chart ®

Version 8.0 September 2021 Edition – Combined Web, Podcast, and TV





# SENATE BILL 3

The commissioner shall develop and make available civics training programs for teachers and administrators.

A civics training program developed under this section must include training in: guided classroom discussion of current events, as appropriate for the grade level and consistent with the restrictions under Section 28.0022

28.0022

a teacher may not be compelled to discuss a particular current event or widely debated and currently controversial issue of public policy or social affairs;

a teacher who chooses to discuss a topic described by Subdivision (1) shall, to the best of the teacher's ability,

strive to explore that topic from diverse and contending perspectives without giving deference to any one perspective;



# SENATE BILL 3

12 (4) a teacher, administrator, or other employee of a  
13 state agency, school district, or open-enrollment charter school  
14 may not:

15 (A) require or make part of a course incultation  
16 in the concept that:

17  
18 to another race or  
19  
20 individual's race  
21 oppressive, whether

noun. the act of inculcating, or teaching or influencing persistently and repeatedly so as to implant or instill an idea, theory, attitude, etc.

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/incultation>

[Inculcation Definition & Meaning | Dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com/browse/incultation)

22  
23 against or receive adverse treatment solely or  
24 the individual's race or sex;  
25 (iv) an individual's n  
26 standing, or worth is necessarily determined by  
27 race or sex;

6 particular race to oppress members of another race;

7 (vii) the advent of slavery in the  
8 territory that is now the United States constituted the true  
9 founding of the United States; or

10 (viii) with respect to their relationship  
11 to American values, slavery and racism are anything other than  
12 deviations from, betrayals of, or failures to live up to the  
13 authentic founding principles of the United States, which include  
14 liberty and equality;

15 (B) teach, instruct, or train any administrator,  
16 teacher, or staff member of a state agency, school district, or  
17 open-enrollment charter school to adopt a concept listed under  
18 Paragraph (A); or

19 (C) require an understanding of the 1619 Project.

tue of the  
, or guilt for  
sex;  
uch as a hard  
members of a





# STUDENT ACTIVITY CONFERENCES

Sept. 10 Tyler Junior College, Tyler

Oct. 1 Texas Tech University (Lubbock)

Oct. 29 University of Texas at Austin

Nov. 5 University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Edinburg

# CONTEST DATES 2022-2033

Invitational A

Jan. 6 - Feb. 4

Invitational B

Feb. 10 - March 11

District

March 20-25

Region

April 21-22

State

May 4-6 (tentative)

# CUT-OFF DATES 2022-2023

The contest will focus on a basic knowledge of current state, national and world events and issues. "Current events" are those that have occurred during the current school year so **any material after Aug. 15, 2022 is fair game for any exam**. However, the following cut-off dates may assist in studying for multiple-choice questions.

Invitational A	Dec. 2, 2022
----------------	--------------

Invitational B	Jan. 6, 2023
----------------	--------------

District	Feb. 6, 2023
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Region	March 10, 2023
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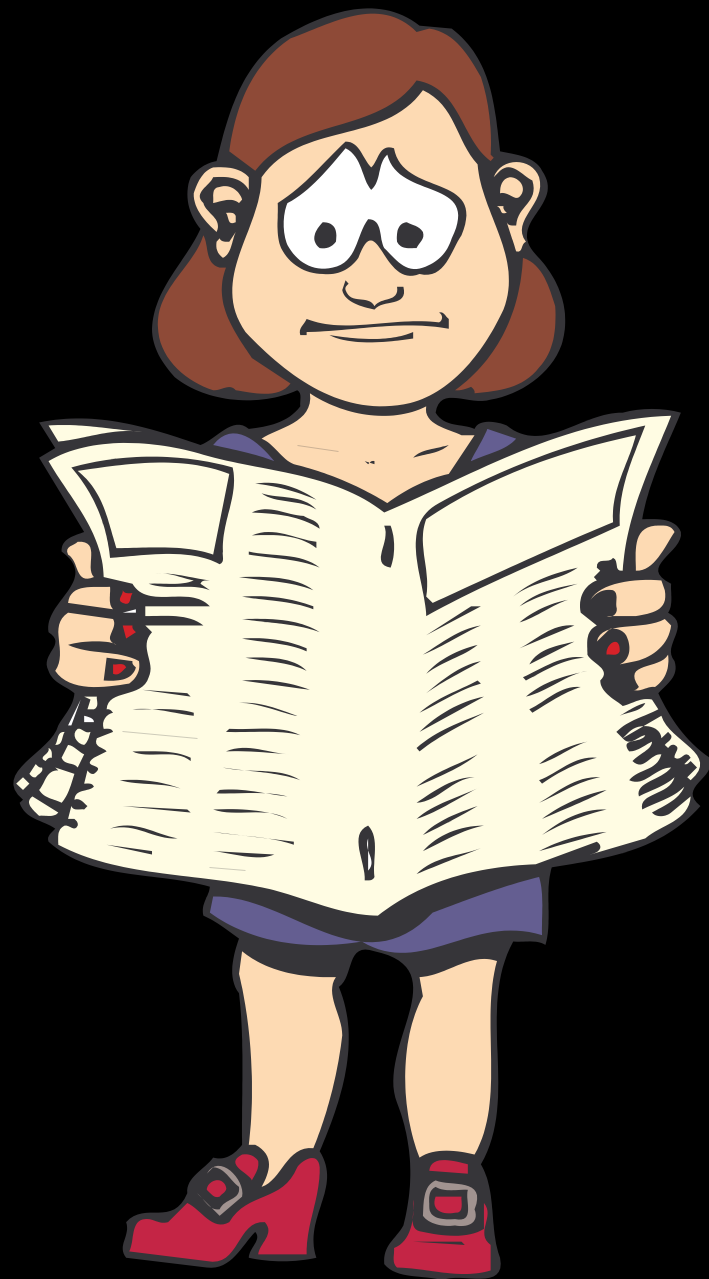
State	April 14, 2023
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# GET STARTED NOW

- Organize your team
- Read *CI&E Contest Manual*
- Engage in social media
- Collect and store data
- Practice regularly
- Attend an invitational meet
- Practice writing and evaluating essays
- Have fun





## APRIL LEAVENWORTH

“Sometimes when we see what’s going on in the world around us, it can change our entire perspective on life. We might want to start volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, or with an animal rescue group. Knowing how and why our world is functioning the way it is **RIGHT NOW** makes us a lot more knowledgeable about how we might be able to change it for the future.”

# CONTACT ME



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QUESTIONS?

